



# Working Group on Early Childhood Governance – Meeting 4

May 4, 2023

RHODE  
ISLAND

# Agenda

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- Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements
- Vote on Adoption of Minutes
- Discussion on Workplan
- Next Steps
- Public Comment
- Adjournment

# Recall: The FY23 budget establishes a working group on early childhood governance to review current approach and identify proposals for future structures.

## Overview of Budget Article

### FY23 Budget Requirements

By October 1, 2023, the early childhood governance working group must deliver a report on early childhood governance. The report includes:

- Coordination + administration
- Governance + organizational structure
- Fiscal cost of proposals
- Implementation of data systems

The Article names the members: DHS, RIDE, OPC, RIDOH, DOA, Chair of the Children’s Cabinet, and RI Kids Count. It notes that staff of the Children’s Cabinet will staff the group to complete the duties and the Early Learning Council will be an advisory body.

It provides \$250,000 to enable completion of the report and recommendations.

# Working Group Mission & Scope – Adopted 11/30/22

## Mission

The goal of Rhode Island’s Working Group on Early Childhood Governance is to examine systems, structure, and authorities that govern and administer early childhood programs (as defined in the Scope). The Working Group will use this information to make recommendations that would advance RI’s vision for children enter kindergarten educationally, social-emotionally, and developmentally ready to succeed, putting them on a path to read proficiently by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade that sets Rhode Islanders up for successful completion of postsecondary education. The Working Group will conduct a comprehensive review of the current conditions and identify gaps and opportunities for improvement to best achieve the goals set forth in the ECCE Strategic Plan and the Governor’s 2030 Plan. The Working Group shall develop a report that includes recommendations regarding the governance of early childhood programs in the state. The recommendations shall address, but need not be limited to:

- The coordination and administration of early childhood programs and services;
- The governance and organizational structure of early childhood programs and services, including whether, and under what circumstances, the state should consider unifying early childhood programs under one state agency;
- The fiscal structure of proposed recommendations; and
- The implementation of early childhood data systems, for strategic planning, program implementation and program evaluation.

## Scope of Analysis:

The Working Group’s efforts will focus on the following core programs:

- **Child care licensing** (DHS)
- **Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)** (DHS)
- **Head Start / Early Head Start Collaboration** (DHS)
- **RI Pre-K** (RIDE)
- **Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Standards (CECE)** (RIDE)
- **Early Childhood Special Education – IDEA Part B, 619** (RIDE)
- **Early Intervention (EI)** (EOHHS)
- **KidsConnect** (EOHHS)
- **Family Visiting** (RIDOH)

To conduct a comprehensive review, the Working Group’s scope will also include analysis of the gaps and opportunities of the supporting systems for ECCE programs, including but not limited to:

- Workforce development, career pathways, and higher education pathways (in collaboration with the Governor’s Workforce Board report in April, 2023)
- Professional development and technical assistance
- Quality evaluation, improvement, and support (with focus on Quality Rating and Improvement System, the RI Early Learning and Development Standards, and the Workforce Knowledge and Competencies)

# Progress since last meeting

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## Procurement of a Systems Analysis Vendor

- Purchase Order issued on Monday May, 1 2023

## Stakeholder Engagement:

- Discussion at the Early Learning Council
- Continued outreach to ELC for interested individuals to participate in an informal advisory group
- Robust stakeholder engagement is the foundation of the workplan

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Rhode Island Early Childhood  
Governance Working Group

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# Overview of Today's Discussion

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- Introductions
- Overview of Our Approach
- Proposed Schedule
- Questions and Discussion

# Introductions

- Elliot & Nasha

- *Early Childhood Governance: Getting There from Here*
- *A Framework for Choosing a State-Level Early Childhood Governance System*
- *The Future of American Early Childhood: A Framework for Building High-Performing, Coherent Systems*
- Vermont Child Care and Early Childhood Education Systems Analysis
- Colorado Universal Preschool Recommendations and Department of Early Childhood Transition Plan
- Wyoming Task Force and Transition Report

- Work Group Members

# Our Approach

- We're not coming with answers – we're going to ask a lot of questions, with the goal of framing opportunities and their tradeoffs
  - At the heart of this conversation are the questions: What are the most important things you're trying to accomplish? And given what you're trying to accomplish, what's the best way to do that?
- We will examine these questions with a focus on concrete functions and how they are executed

# Our Approach

- We see successful local early childhood ecosystems as the key to family success, and see the state's role as supporting those ecosystems
  - We believe that fragmentation comes at a cost, and puts a burden on communities and providers
  - We will be looking at defining the state's role, identifying the capacities needed to do it well, and framing key tradeoffs regarding the best configuration of that capacity
- We see effective data use as critical to the state's ongoing success in whatever role is defined for it

# Proposed Work Plan (1 of 2)

In our proposal, we suggested the sequence of activities below:

Month	Activity
1	Introductions
	Begin document reviews
	Begin stakeholder outreach
2	Continue stakeholder outreach
	Begin fiscal analysis
	Begin national best practices review
3	Continue stakeholder outreach, fiscal analysis, and national best practices review; engage additional stakeholders as needed
	Share first public progress report with initial findings – including major themes that have emerged

# Proposed Work Plan (2 of 2)

Month	Activity
4	Share findings on national best practices
	Begin projecting costs of different options for governance change
5	Present initial synthesis of elements to include in the final report, including the fiscal analysis
	Submit draft report
6	On-site meeting to discuss the initial draft
	Additional outreach to stakeholders to collect feedback
7	Synthesize feedback and produce final draft

## In the next few months ...

... we will be talking to a lot of people. We welcome feedback and outreach at any time. We also hope that some of those conversations will be in person!

- As tentative conclusions start to emerge we will test them with the Working Group. Our approach is to iterate and learn from the Working Group as we go, rather than save everything for a “big reveal” at the end.

**QUESTIONS?**

Thank you!

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# Public Comment

